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This transcript records a debate titled **"Culture War: Islam, Zionism, and American Identity,"** featuring host **Alex Stein** and guests **Shabbos Kestenbaum**, **Beau French**, and **Suleiman Ahmad**. The discussion covers the compatibility of **Islam with Western values**, the influence of **Zionism in American media**, and the impact of **immigration on national identity**.

Below is the verbatim text of the debate, formatted and punctuated for readability.

## Part 1: The Introduction and Opening Salvos

- **Alex Stein:** Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Culture War. We got a great debate. You know what it is: Islam, baby. So let me introduce all of our guests. We got the one, the only **Shabbos Kestenbaum** here. You know, he is not a huge fan of Islam. And then also, sitting to my left, we got **Beau French**. He's running for Railroad Commissioner of Texas. Everybody go support him in that. And then we got the—we got the freaking heel of this whole damn show. We got the villain that is chilling. You know him. You love him. **Suleiman Ahmad**. Did I pronounce your last name right?
- **Suleiman Ahmad:** You got it right. You got it right.
- **Alex Stein:** Okay. Good. Alright. With that being said, folks, today we're gonna talk about a topic that is—I guess it can, you know, it can make you feel some sort of way, to say the least. So I really encourage everybody that's watching to participate in the chat. We wanna get your opinion. And with that being said, who wants to kinda start this thing off? Suleiman, do you wanna defend Islam? Do you wanna start off by defending Islam? Because I would say that us three, you know, we probably are not the biggest fans of it.

## Part 2: Media Connotations and Historical Conflict

| Speaker | Argument Summary |
|---|---|
| **Suleiman Ahmad** | Argues that negative connotations of Islam are **manufactured by pro-Zionist media** to manufacture consent for bombing the Middle East. |
| **Shabbos Kestenbaum** | Contends that the issue is **Radical Islam**, citing the Barbary Wars and 58,000 terrorist attacks since 9/11. |
| **Beau French** | Asserts that **Islam is inherently radical** and that mosques in Texas act as "forward operating bases" for an Islamist movement. |

- **Suleiman Ahmad:** Why do people, I guess, have this negative connotation of Islam? Is that just kind of brainwashing from the American media from the nine-eleven days? Or why do people have this kind of visceral hatred for Islam? Yeah. That's a very good question. I mean, from my perspective, I believe the reason is, as you mentioned, is because of the media, and it's the **propagation of hatred** where Islam is isolated. And I do believe that because a lot of the media is very much **pro-Israel, pro-Zionist**. So their perspective is when you demonize Islam, you manufacture consent.
- **Shabbos Kestenbaum:** First of all, it's not that I have a problem with Islam that's a theological doctrine as a religion. Not at all. I think what I have a problem with, and what most Americans have a problem with, is **radical Islam**. And when you talk about Israel or Zionism, which I'm shocked that it made it in that quickly in this debate, Jesus Christ. God forbid.

## Part 3: Theological and Domestic Debates

- **Beau French:** I think **radical Islam is a redundant term**. I think Islam is in and of itself radical. I think the more true statement is that not all Muslims are Islamist. And I think that's—that's the bigger issue here is Islam is what we're talking about. Islam is the problem. Islam is, you know, taking over large swaths of America. We've seen this huge influx in—even in just in Texas. Right? You think Texas is this place that's like the bastion of freedom and liberty in America? And we—you know, 300 mosques have been built recently. These are like **forward operating bases** for, you know, the Islamist movement.
- **Suleiman Ahmad:** This claim that mosques are outposts is, like, completely ridiculous. He also mentioned about Islam saying "convert and kill". That's not a doctrine within Islam. The **Quran quite explicitly says** within the Quran, there is freedom of religion. Actually, it's in—and the Quran is a lot more lenient in terms of apostasy compared to Christianity and Judaism, which is a—has a lot more harsher punishment when it comes to apostasy.

## Part 4: Closing Perspectives on National Identity

- **Shabbos Kestenbaum:** Free speech is the pinnacle of our society. It's why it's the First Amendment, and not the Thirty-Seventh Amendment. It is the First Amendment, and you can and should be able to hate as many people as you like. **Hate speech is free speech**.
- **Suleiman Ahmad:** All I want is **consistency**, and this is what we saw today. There wasn't consistency. That's the only thing I asked for.
- **Alex Stein:** I think it comes down to **social engineering** that's meant to make us, you know, pit—pit us against each other. So that's why I disagree with it. I think we need to find some common ground and love one another.

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**Clarifying Question:** The source material contains over 250 passages and several hours of dialogue. Would you like me to continue formatting the **remaining segments** of the transcript in this verbatim style, or would you prefer a **thematic breakdown** of specific arguments (e.g., the debate over the 1948 borders or the discussion on Sharia law in Texas)?